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independent form. Applicant has amended the independent claims as suggested by the Examiner and therefore believes these claims are now allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8 and 16-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 8 and 16 to address the noted 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. These amendments are submitted to place these claims in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2,7,9 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Venus-Gusmer article in view of one or more secondary references.

While applicants do not concede that Venus-Gusmer is a reference, Applicants respectfully submit that if one were to consider this as a reference, it does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. The examiner inquired as to the source of the Venus-Gusmer reference. This article was produced by a third party after Applicants' invention, and Applicant was unable to determine the third party's source of the article.

The Examiner states that Venus-Gusmer shows the continuous mold surface with its plurality of molds. Applicant must assume that the Examiner has interpreted each of the eight 9 x 42-ft molds to be continuous in the sense that each discrete mold produces a single continuous part. Applicants respectfully submit that these are discrete molds, and not a continuous mold surface as claimed by applicants.

Applicant asserts that the plurality of molds disclosed by Venus-Gusmer does not show or suggest the "continuous mold surface" claimed by Applicant. Applicant notes that Venus-Gusmer discloses a plurality of discrete molds, each of which is used to make a panel, while Applicant claims a continuous mold surface. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the subject matter of independent claim 33 is not shown or suggested by Venus-Gusmer nor any of the prior art of record and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Applicant submits that the pending dependent claims, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 33, are allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Applicant submits that this amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and thus makes any determination of the publication date (if any) of the Venus-Gusmer moot. Applicant continues to submit that Examiner has not fulfilled the requirement, as stated in MPEP 2128, as discussed in the Response dated April 30, 2004.

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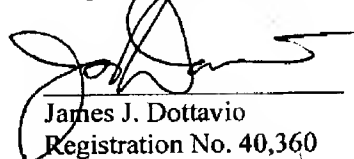
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome and the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests entry of the above amendment and consideration of the remaining claims.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Response, including any fee for a required extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for which Applicant hereby petitions, please charge all necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims**

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said applicator mechanism comprises a chopper for applying fibrous reinforcement.
3. (currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing fiber-reinforced sheet, comprising:
a continuous mold surface being arranged in a longitudinal manner, onto which the fiber-reinforced sheet may be formed [; The apparatus of claim 33, wherein] said continuous mold surface [is] being defined by a continuous loop of individual links.
a spray mechanism to spray a first outer coat of material onto said mold surface;
at least one dispensing mechanism to dispense resin over said first outer coat;
at least one applicator mechanism to apply fiber strands over said first outer coat; and
a roller mechanism for rolling said fiber strands and said resin.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said links are elongate in width and connect to adjacent links along their front and rear edges.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said apparatus further comprises a rail member positioned below said links defining a reference surface, and said links have a lower foot portion which registers with said links to define a horizontal plane, on said upper movable surface.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said foot portion has a wear bar comprised of a low friction surface which slides relative to said reference surface.
7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said drawing mechanism is a pressure application mechanism.
8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said pressure mechanism is comprised of a second continuous loop of individual links, positioned in a spaced apart position from said ~~first~~ continuous loop having a mold surface.

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9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said sheet is comprised of a roll of sheet material of high tensile strength.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing fiber-reinforced sheet,

comprising:

a continuous mold surface being arranged in a longitudinal manner onto which the fiber-reinforced sheet may be formed, said continuous mold surface comprising an upper movable surface being arranged in a longitudinal manner and a feed mechanism to continuously feed sheet onto said upper movable surface and [The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising] a take up roller to roll up said sheet material, said sheet being comprised of a roll of sheet material of high tensile strength;

a spray mechanism to spray a first outer coat of material onto said mold surface;

at least one dispensing mechanism to dispense resin over said first outer coat;

at least one applicator mechanism to apply fiber strands over said first outer coat; and

a roller mechanism for rolling said fiber strands and said resin.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a roller table adjacent said take up roller, whereby finished fiberglass-reinforced sheet may be continuously fed onto said roller table.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said reinforcement applicator mechanism comprises a chopper for applying fibrous reinforcement.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing fiber-reinforced sheet,

comprising:

a continuous mold surface being arranged in a longitudinal manner, onto which the fiber-reinforced sheet may be formed [The apparatus of claim 36, wherein] said mold surface [is] being movable in a longitudinal direction;

a spray mechanism to spray a first outer coat of material onto said mold surface;

at least one dispensing mechanism to dispense resin over said first outer coat;

at least one applicator mechanism to apply fiber strands over said first outer coat; and

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a roller mechanism for rolling said fiber strands and said resin, said roller mechanism comprising an automatic roller mechanism which performs transverse rolling patterns across said mold surface [and] said automatic roller mechanism [is] being comprised of at least one roller which is driven in a continuous loop in a direction transverse to said longitudinal direction.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14[[15]], wherein said roller mechanism is profiled to move said at least one roller in a direction, such that the roller has a transverse velocity component and a longitudinal velocity component, whereby the longitudinal velocity component is equal to a longitudinal velocity of the moving mold surface.
16. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said roller mechanism is comprised of a driven chain loop guided around a chain guide, and said roller is attached to and driven by chain loop.
17. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said chain guide is movable to various angles to vary the angle of the chain guide relative to the longitudinal direction.
18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein a plane of said chain guide is tipped relative to a plane of said mold surface.
19. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a plurality of rollers attached to and driven by said chain loop.
20. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said movable mold surface is defined by a roll of film together with a feed mechanism to feed said film at a first end, and a take up roller at a second end.
21. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a movable support surface positioned beneath said movable mold surface.
22. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said movable mold surface and said movable support surface are moved together at substantially the same speeds.

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23. (original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said movable support surface is defined by a continuous loop of individual links.
24. (original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said apparatus further comprises a rail member positioned below said links defining a reference surface, and said links have a lower foot portion which registers with said links to define a horizontal plane.
25. (canceled)
26. (canceled)
27. (canceled)
28. (canceled)
29. (canceled)
30. (canceled)
31. (canceled)
33. (previously presented) An apparatus for manufacturing fiber-reinforced sheet, comprising:
a continuous mold surface being arranged in a longitudinal manner, onto which the fiber-reinforced sheet may be formed;
a spray mechanism to spray a first outer coat of material onto said mold surface;
at least one dispensing mechanism to dispense resin over said first outer coat;
at least one applicator mechanism to apply fiber strands over said first outer coat; and
a roller mechanism for rolling said fiber strands and said resin.
34. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said continuous mold surface comprises:
an upper movable surface being arranged in a longitudinal manner; and
a feed mechanism to continuously feed sheet onto said upper movable surface.
35. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising:
a loading area whereby sheet panels may be positioned over said rolled fibers and resin; and
a mechanism to draw said resin into said sheet panels to form a rigid composite material.

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36. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said roller mechanism comprises an automatic roller mechanism which performs transverse rolling patterns across said mold surface.